Development of Tourism in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh

†3351 SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of potentialities for tourism in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Central Government propose to exploit tourism potentialities in these areas;

(c) if so, whether any action plan has been chalked out in this regard in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) what is the number of proposals received from Govt, of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(e) what are the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government for development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) Development of tourist infrastructural facilities for exploiting tourism potential is primarily undertaken by the State Govts./ Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govts, concerned every year. During the last 3 years of Ninth plan Rs. 989.05 lakhs has been sanctioned for 42 tourism projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Development of Simhachalam Hills (A.P.) as tourist spot

3354. DR. Y LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Simhachalam Hills in Visakhapatnam is being developed as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details of plan made in this regard; and

(c) by when it would be added in tourist map for attracting foreign as well as national tourists?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.